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Article 9 provides that whenever a need for centralized control occurs the government has right of legislation over community welfare; and article 10 affirms the right of the government to lay down principles for schools, high schools, and scientific publications, and the official rights of all public bodies.

Article 17 says that all States within the Republic must have republican constitutions; their representatives must be "chosen in universal, equal, direct, and secret vote by all German men and women on the basis of proportional representation; and the same basis of franchise counts in community elections."

Article 18 provides that in issues between the States and the nation involving boundaries and reconstruction of States, the decision in certain contingencies shall be settled by a referendum of the voters of the State affected. Where disputes arise over financial or property details following reconstruction measures, appeal may be made to the Supreme Court, to which tribunal also (according to article 19) "constitutional disputes within a State in which no court exists that may resolve them, as well as in the case of disputes of a non-private nature between the different States or between the government and a State," may be referred at the request of one of the parties, in case another court of the government does not have jurisdiction.

Articles 20, 21, and 22 define the Reichstag as consisting of the deputies of the German people—"the whole people"—the delegates being responsible only to their own conscience and not bound by any orders, and to be chosen by methods described in article 17, twenty years being the age limit. Elections are to be held on a Sunday or on a public day of rest.

Article 29 provides that proceedings of the Reichstag be public, but "at the request of fifty members the public may be excluded on a two-thirds majority vote."

Article 33 asserts the right of the Reichstag and its committees to demand the presence of the National Chancellor and of any other Government minister. They in turn shall have access to the Reichstag and to its committees.

Articles 41 to 59 deal with the President and with his duties and powers. Any German who has completed his thirty-fifth year is eligible. The term lasts seven years and re-election is permissible. He may be "recalled" by a popular referendum, under certain conditions defined by the Reichstag. He is to represent the nation in all matters having to do with international law, but declaration of war and conclusion of peace are for the Reichstag to determine; and alliances and treaties with foreign States, related to subjects covered by national law, shall require the approval of the Reichstag. He has supreme command over the military forces of the nation, and may use armed power to make a State live up to its duties to the government under the Constitution, and may act equally summarily in securing public order if he deems it necessary, but he must report such action to the Reichstag, which has power to revoke his decrees. Power to appoint and dismiss the chancellor and other ministers rests with the President, but they must have "the confidence of the Reichstag for the fulfillment of their office and any of them must withdraw in the event that the Reichstag by explicit resolution withholds its confidence." If the Reichstag and the President and the ministry clash on an issue of loyalty to the Constitution, then, by petition of 100 members of the legislature, the issue goes to the National Supreme Court.

Articles 102 to 108 have to do with the administration of justice, which is to be done through judges, who are independent and subject only to the law, appointed for life, and only to be removed from office or transferred to another office, or retired against their will, by virtue of judicial decision and for the grounds and in the forms provided by law."

We lack space to more than hint at some of the striking provisions of the new compact, such as suspension of all advantages of birth (109); secrecy of letters and postal, telegraph, and telephone communications (117); free and unhampered (within the limits of general laws) utterance of opinions by word, writing, printing, or picture (118); equal rights of husband and wife in marriage, with motherhood creating direct claims on the State (119); "education of offspring to physical, mental, and social efficiency is the

highest duty and natural right of parents, whose activities are watched over by the political community" (120); civic rights and State rights and duties are neither conditioned by nor limited by the enjoyment of religious liberties and are independent of religious belief, and as to what the latter is no person is under compulsion to reveal. Religious oaths are not compulsory (136) and no State church is recognized (137) and State contributions to religious societies are abrogated (138). As for the economic life of the people, it "must correspond to the principles of justice, with the object of assuring to all a life worth living," and legal compulsion of the individual "is only admissible for the safeguarding of threatened rights or in the service of the predominant demands of the public good" (151). Working and exploitation of land is a duty owed to communities by owners, and values of land not due to the application of labor or capital to the land are social values and go to the community (155). Labor power is under special protection of the nation (157), and international action setting up a general minimum measure of social rights for the whole working class of the world is approved.

PEACE AND WAR TRACINGS

By HARRIET N. RALSTON

(Dedicated to the American Peace Society
of Washington, D. C.)

(We are glad to print these verses by a long-time friend of the American Peace Society, a friend whose interest in affairs of the world at the ripe age of ninety-one years, she having been born the same year as the American Peace Society, is keen and far-ranging. This poem was written during the armistice of 1918-1919.—THE EDITORS.)

Peace spreads above the nations her spotless canopy;
It drapes the mountain summits, it veils the farthest seas;
Beneath it thronging peoples and Wisdom's magnates meet,
With hallelujahs ringing as Freedom's light they greet!

Truth from its sacred temples portrays man's direst needs;
Humanity responsive waits not on puzzling creeds;
It lifts the stricken brother, turns not from hopeless woe,
And severs galling shackles with its resistless blow!

The voice of Truth is potent; the mandatory word,
"Let there be light," once spoken, is through Time's cycles
heard;
It vitalized forces, as when from darkened space
The wakened Earth moved skyward with planetary grace.

But Darkness breeds its minions; Evil asserts its sway
O'er all the blinded forces that seek not Truth's pure ray.
Greed and his fighting cohorts, sinewed and armed in steel,
Stride forth upon Earth's bosom to stamp Oppression's heel.

The swarming minions gather—a devastating brood,
Insatiate for war's ravage, athirst for patriot blood;
They sweep a swift destruction; they shout supremacy,
And vow amidst high revel they will world-masters be!

They transform fields to deserts; in machinations dark
They plan a trail of ruin which broken hearthstones mark.
In terror of their weapons, fain would the helpless hide;
But closed is Mercy's refuge and Hope has turned aside.

Yet patriotic forces still sought to hold at bay
The hordes of fierce marauders who counted earth their prey;
Who clutched the spoils of ravage and strewed the wasted
sod
With wrecks of homes and temples where man had wor-
shipped God!

Then Europe's patriot legions sent forth the pleading cry,
"America, oh help us; our famished peoples die!"
Sea-cables held the message; the winds and waves conferred;
A continent made answer, "America has heard!"

The straining ships are laden with Nature's countless stores;
Its life-sustaining treasures Humanity outpours;
The Red Cross from its bounty sends full and timely aid,
And lo! the wireless whispers, "The port is safely made!"

And souls among the noblest, at Liberty's behest,
Surrender life's endearments and homes that love had blest;
The transport ships weigh anchor; old Boreas seeks his lair,
And Neptune issues orders to foil the U-boat's snare!

The Allied armies center; seized with appalling dread,
Their foemen fall unshriven beneath Titanic tread,
As victors level strongholds and fortresses they scale,
Amid war's belching thunders and shrapnel's piercing hail!

They break the bars of dungeons; their wild, victorious cheer
Awakes the silent echoes and strikes the prisoner's ear,
Who from the dark foundations beholds Hope's entering ray
And breathes the air of Freedom while Valor leads the way!

We welcome home our heroes, for whom laurels have bloomed,
Our Nation's valiant safeguards, who when war's specter loomed

Gave unto home and country a love beyond all price
And laid on Freedom's altar their bond of sacrifice!

We mourn our "missing" comrades—those who return no more—

Whose deeds we hold as treasures secure in Memory's store.
Their forms, perchance, are lying on ocean's understrands;
Their dust, perchance, is mingled with war-swept desert sands!

Perchance they bore "Old Glory" and held its staff so high
That all its stars were shining on peaks that touched the sky!

Yet why should eyes be weeping when patriot souls ascend
Where sunset's golden glories with heavenly vistas blend.

America, the peerless, nurtured by Liberty,
Receives a world's rare homage as guardian of the free!
She breathes the aspirations of hope for every race,
And traces lines of action with an unerring grace!

She frowns on powers intriguing; protects each lesser State;
For counsels from her wisdom the greater nations wait.
The rays of truth's bright jewels upon her brow unite
And forms a grand tiara of constellated light!

We count world-war as ended; mankind has wiser grown;
Justice with well-poised balance holds her exalted throne;
To woes of anguished peoples kind Heaven grants surcease,
And nations hail the dawning of Freedom's world-wide peace!

THE WASHINGTON LABOR CONFERENCE

On May 3 President Wilson, then in Paris, sent forth the following statement:

"The labor program which the Conference of Peace has adopted as a part of the Treaty of Peace constitutes one of the most important achievements of the new day in which the interests of labor are to be systematically and intelligently safeguarded and promoted. Amidst the multitude of other interests, this great step forward is apt to be overlooked, and yet no other single thing that has been done will help more to stabilize conditions of labor throughout the world and ultimately relieve the unhappy conditions which in too many places have prevailed. Personally I regard this as one of the most gratifying achievements of the Conference."

The program to which he referred is found in Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles. Article 424 of that section reads:

"The first meeting of the Conference shall take place in October, 1919. The place and agenda for this meeting shall be as specified in the annex hereto.

"Arrangements for the convening and the organization of the first meeting of the Conference will be made by the Government designated for the purpose in the said annex.

"That Government shall be assisted in the preparation of the documents for submission to the Conference by an international committee constituted as provided in the said annex.

"The expenses of the first meeting and of all subsequent meetings held before the League of Nations has been able to establish a general fund, other than the expenses of delegates and their advisers, will be borne by the members in accordance with the apportionment of the expenses of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union."

Under the provisions of the annex above referred to the city of Washington was named as the place of meeting, the date as October 29, and the United States to act as host. Preparations for this gathering naturally devolving upon the Department of Labor, Secretary Wilson, among other duties incident to the task, sought action by Congress; and at his request Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, introduced a joint resolution which, if passed, would authorize responsive action by the American Government and make provision for the meeting in terms pecuniary and otherwise. This resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and Secretary Wilson appeared before that body in its behalf. As reported back to the Senate and finally passed after some debate, the resolution lacked its original preamble and had amendments, all framed with the intention of making possible the assembling of the Conference quite apart from implied or implicit endorsement of the League of Nations Covenant and the Peace Treaty, it being recognized by all factions of the Senators that possibly final action on the treaty may be delayed so long a time as to preclude proper preparations for the Conference. Realizing, however, the necessity of some such gathering to settle if possible present phases of social, industrial, and economic warfare that has followed the combat of military forces, the Senate was advised to favor holding a "General International Labor Conference" and to leave the time of holding it to the President.

The joint resolution as passed by the Senate reads:

"*Resolved, etc.*, That the President of the United States be, and hereby is, authorized to convene and make arrangements for the organization of a General International Labor Conference to be held in Washington, D. C.; *Provided, however*, That nothing herein shall be held to authorize the President to appoint any delegates to represent the United States of America at such Conference or to authorize the United States of America to participate therein unless and until the Senate of the United States shall have ratified the provisions of the proposed Treaty of Peace with Germany with reference to a General International Labor Conference."

Secretary of Labor Wilson was present when this action was debated and was taken, and he assented to the change from the original resolution, which expressly called for appointment of delegates. He has sent out invitations to a Conference with an undetermined status, and in which, under a certain contingency, the United States, though acting as host, may not be represented. The measure as adopted by the Senate, by the admission of Senator Kenyon, has nothing to do with the Treaty; and Senator Knox, while voting for the resolution, made it clear that he did so with the clear understanding that he was not thereby estopped from opposing the Treaty in any or all of its provisions, to which remark Senator Williams, who favors the Treaty, replied, "How could it be otherwise?"